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Release of lands in the reserve forests for cultivation of food-crops.

* 29 Q.—SRI K. VENKATARAMANA GOWDA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether the Government have received the recommendations of the South Kanara District Food Production Committee to release suitable lands in the reserve forests for cultivation of food-crops and if so the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM:—"No such recommendations were made by the District Food Production Committee, South Kanara."

Slump in the coir industry.

* 30 Q.—SRI C. KUNHIRAMA KURUP: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state what steps the Government have taken to ward off the slump in the coir industry?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—"The following steps have been taken by the Government to alleviate the distress caused to the coir industry since the middle of 1952:—

(1) Circulars have been issued to the Heads of several Departments of Government and local bodies in this State to encourage the purchase of coir and coir goods.

(2) Manufactured coir goods are displayed in all industrial and commercial museums and sales are effected from the emporia attached to some of the museums.

(3) The Industries Department has been participating in all the exhibitions held in the State, where the manufactured coir goods are displayed and important and up-to-date processes of manufacture of coir goods are demonstrated.

(4) To restore the demand for coir and coir goods in foreign countries, the Government of India have addressed the Indian Government Trade Representatives abroad to do everything possible to stimulate coir trade. Coir and coir goods have also been included in current trade agreements with Austria, Finland, Germany, Hungary and Norway to ensure a steady market for these goods.

These steps will go a long way not only to alleviate the present distress, if any, to the coir industry, but also to help to ward off any slump in the future.

The following proposals are still under consideration in consultation with the Government of India:—

(1) To induce the Navy to obtain its requirements of coir ropes from this State, especially from the Co-operative or Industries Department.

(2) To secure Railway freight concession for coir and coir goods for movement by goods train.

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The recent trends in the market for coir, however, indicate that the prices of coir goods are on the increase and that there is a good demand for coir.''

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—''சர்க்கார் எடுக்கும் நடவடிக்கைகள் ஒரு 12.10 p.m.
புறம் இருக்க ஏற்கனவே எடுத்திருக்கும் நடவடிக்கைகள்படி கட்டு மொத்தமாக எவ்வளவு தங்கியிருக்கின்றன என்பதை சர்க்கார் கணித்திருக்கிறதா? அப்படியானுல் அதை சொல்ல முடியுமா?''

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—'' Sir, I have already said at the end of my reply that there has been an improvement in the coir market and that there is no slump now. I think the hon. Member would have noticed the Kozhikode Market Review in the *Hindu* of the 29th September 1953 where it was pointed out that there was a good demand for coir, especially for the Beypore varieties. In the local market over 1,200 candies were sold in the last week as against 1,000 candies sold during the previous week. There are no arrears and all the stocks were disposed of then and there.''

DR. K. B. MENON :—'' I think the Coir Factory at Beypore has been closed. Have the Government any proposals to reopen the factory?''

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—'' Sir, I would like to have notice.''

MR. SPEAKER :—'' Question hour is now over.''

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS.

Number of suicides and deaths in the jails in South Arcot district.

1 *Q.*—SRI K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Law be pleased to state the number of suicides and deaths in the various jails in the South Arcot district from 1951 up to 30th June 1953?

A.—There were five cases of death in the Central Jail, Cuddalore, due to natural causes and one case of suicide in the Sub-Jail, Vriddhachalam, during the period.

Income from forests in South Arcot district.

2 *Q.*—SRI K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) the total income from the forests of the South Arcot district and the expenditure incurred to maintain them during the years 1951–52 and 1952–53; and

(*b*) the total number of illicit cuttings during the year 1952–53?